

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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Seattle Restaurateur Sentenced for Sales Tax Theft, Filing False Tax Returns

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 6, 2004 — The owner and operator of the Simpatico restaurants in Seattle and Kent was sentenced today for stealing more than \$123,000 in sales tax and filing false tax returns to cover the theft.

King County Superior Court Judge Steven Scott sentenced Hugh P. Golden, 35, to 60 days in jail and 30 days community service, and ordered him to pay the Washington Department of Revenue \$86,158.76 in taxes, penalties and interest. Golden was ordered to begin serving his sentence March 5.

Golden paid \$62,448 to the Washington State Department of Revenue prior to his sentencing on Feb. 4. He must make a total of \$148,647.29 in restitution, including the \$123,000 in sales tax, plus penalties and interest.

Golden has closed his Kent restaurant but continues to operate the one in the Wallingford district of Seattle. The case was prosecuted last August by Financial Crimes Unit of the Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

Golden plead guilty last year of failing to file tax returns or filing "no business activity" returns with the Department of Revenue between 2000 and 2002, even though his businesses were active and collecting sales tax from customers. When contacted by a Department of Revenue agent, Golden told the agent that the Kent restaurant was closed. He also claimed that the Simpatico restaurant in the Wallingford District of Seattle was doing no business, even though it was one of the more popular restaurants in North Seattle at the time.

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